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1982-83 Annual Report

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The Social Planning & Research Council

of Hamilton and District


A United Way Member Agency

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President's Report

When I hear the initials "S.P.R.C.", a flood of memories fill my mind. I recall the first meetings I attended at the old United Way building at Main and Hess streets when Harry Penny was the Executive Director. I remember serving on the committee of three + three when the United Way and the SPRC decided to become two separate entities. I remember serving as chairman of the Committee on Aging when I had the privilege of working with Norma Walsh and Syd Blum. In those days there were no senior citizens' apartments -- no meals-on-wheels. I remember when Nelson Allan worked so hard to establish the Central Information Bureau -- now the Community Information Service. Yes, the SPRC established the CIS, and now we amicably share offices and even hold annual meetings together. I remember our study on poverty in the early 'seventies, and I can picture in my mind's eye many meetings over the last 10 years at City Hall and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth where we presented briefs or asked for money. I recall our community forums at the YWCA, the YMCA, the Library, First Place, and church basements.

These initials "SPRC" in my mind stand for Staff, People, Research and Community. And I should like to say a few words about each of these categories.

First, our staff. I think we have been most fortunate to obtain such a devoted group of people to serve us. Our professional staff has been superb. Through the years we have been blessed with four excellent executive directors -- Harry Penny, now with the McMaster School of Social Work; Ed Pennington, now executive director of the Toronto Social Planning Council; Don Peirce, now with the Secretary of State; and our dedicated Mike Pennock, who we hope will be with us for a long time to come.

Members of our professional staff are intelligent, hard-working and willing to give of themselves beyond the call of duty. The quality of their accomplishments far, far exceeds the quantity of their remuneration.

Our six office staff members headed so capably by our own Mary Swan is a remarkably loyal group.

They must like us as much as we like them, because their years of service total ninety.

May I personally and on behalf of all of you thank our staff for their hard work and dedication.

P stands for People, the second element of the SPRC. It includes all of you volunteers who serve on our executive, board, and committees, and who work for the Volunteer Bureau. When Jean Jones became the first part-time director of the Volunteer Bureau in 1963, its total budget was \$5,000. The Volunteer Bureau is part of the SPRC, although its affairs are primarily managed by the Volunteer Bureau Advisory Committee. With a staff of 1½ professionals and a full-time secretary, it has a special place within the SPRC. I want to thank Linda Graff, the director of the Volunteer Bureau, and Donna Marcaccio, chairman of the VBAC, for their contributions to the SPRC.

R stands for Research, the third element in the SPRC. Our Research Advisory Committee is singular and invaluable. Chaired by Dr. Larry Chambers of McMaster, its membership is made up of researchers from the city, the region, the board of education, local hospitals, and other knowledgeable demographers who lend their expertise to our Council. Thank you all very much.

The final letter, C, stands for Community -- or Communities, for Hamilton-Wentworth is made up of many communities. A community group interested in the work of DARTS, a community group concerned about rapid transit, a community group concerned about any problem may confidently approach our Community Development Advisory Committee so capably chaired by Dick Capling from Mohawk College. The SPRC is of the community and provides service to the community -- any community. We attempt at all times to provide good data and write straightforward, unbiased reports. Now and then, the Council will take a public stand on a community issue -- but the vast majority of requests are dealt with in a non-political manner. This is the real strength of the SPRC. Thank you, Dick, and your committee.

Finally I must say a few words about our executive committee. David Seldon, our past president, has been a source of strength to me during the last two years. It has been a pleasure to work with Tony Butler, who will be your new president. And we all owe Mike Welch, our wonderful treasurer, a

large vote of thanks for his conscientious attention to our books and his intelligent advice.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for honouring me by allowing me to serve as your chairman for the past two years. Financial restraint has had an impact on our budget. Last year we instituted a small membership fee and, at the time of going to print, we now have 93 individual members and 81 organizational members. We have a deficit of \$5,000. for this fiscal year with no cash reserves. Your past presidents and I will be coming to many of you for a one-time, tax deductible donation to tide us over without staff layoffs – please give generously.

Together we will overcome our financial difficulties. together we have accomplished a lot, and I know that with your help the SPRC will remain a vital force in our community.

Marjorie Baskin

Executive Director's Report

Financially, the Council has received virtually no increase in budget for the past two years. We have continued to balance our budget, however, by undertaking the following actions –

- a reduction in the staff work week to 4.5 days;
- a reduction of a full-time position to half-time within the Volunteer Bureau;
- the introduction of membership fees;
- the solicitation of Foundation donations for equipment purchases;
- a small fund-raising campaign among past board members.

These actions, plus a short leave of absence for one staff member, have allowed us to avoid lay-offs throughout this period of hardship. The amount of accumulated overtime among the staff, indicates that we have been somewhat less than successful in implementing the 4.5 day work week.

This has come about as a result of our growing workload in all areas of activity. This situation, which shows no sign of abatement, has forced us to take a hard look at our priorities as a Council. This is a joint effort of Board and staff and, inevitably, it will lead to some difficult decisions about where our limited resources should be placed for maximum impact in the fulfilment of our important mandate.

During 1982, the problems of unemployment obviously emerged as a priority area. The present forecasts, which anticipate a relatively long period of high unemployment, present an unprecedented situation for the modern day social service system. As a result, we formed an Action Group on the Social Consequences of Unemployment to co-ordinate social service efforts to assist the victims of unemployment in coping with their circumstances. This group is now in place and we are beginning to see the benefits of such a co-ordinated effort.

As part of this effort, the Volunteer Bureau has embarked upon a very important campaign to assist unemployed persons in coping with the psychological effects of unemployment through active, productive volunteer work.

We do recognize, however, that there is also a role for the Council in terms of the core economic problems which are at the root of our employment malaise. Our upcoming discussion paper, "The Task Ahead", will attempt to provide an overview of the prevailing economic views. Our outgoing president, Marjorie Baskin, will be serving on the Region's Economic Development Advisory Committee and I will be working closely with the McMaster Secretariat, which is now attempting to take a long term view and generate a practical industrial development strategy to counter the pronounced structural changes which are taking place in our industrial infra-structure.

This broadening of our mandate into areas of economic development is an important change for the Council and has come about as a result of changes both internal and external to the Council. Internally, our research program has always been the primary resource in the community for monitoring and interpreting socio-economic trends. At the same time, the expansion of our community development program has taken us increasingly into issues of community economic development.

Externally, there appears to be a growing recognition that our unemployment problems are of a nature which defy macro-level short-term solutions. We need a concerted effort to mobilize all of the resources of the community in dealing with this problem. As a result, economic development problems are more and more viewed as community development problems and it is here that the expertise and resources of the SPRC are recognized as potentially significant contributors to resolving the problems.

We, more than almost any other organization in the Region, have a history of accomplishment in bringing together people representing diverse skills and perspectives to focus on serious community-wide problems. This, of course, is the essence of community development.

A recent example of our success in this regard is the Task Force on Battering which developed out of our initiatives and has made great strides during 1982. Very recently, the Ministry of Community and Social Services has asked for submissions from municipalities in dealing with the problem of wife-battering. The fact that we already had an active, multi-disciplinary task force working on this issue has meant that we were able to respond very

quickly and effectively to this welcome initiative by the province.

As usual, it is impossible to summarize all of the activities which have been undertaken by the Council in the past year. Staff time summaries are available for that kind of detailed breakdown. In my report, I will simply attempt to provide some of the highlights.

The Volunteer Bureau continued a concerted campaign to promote volunteerism in the community. Many of their highly successful Volunteer Week activities have been adopted in a new province wide campaign which will help to elevate the importance of volunteerism in the public mind. This co-ordinated province-wide campaign is due, in no small measure, to the work done by our staff with the provincial association.

In an attempt to increase our efficiency in placing volunteers, we adopted a Job Board approach in 1982. A further initiative in this regard is the proposed Skills Bank although this development has been retarded by our resource problems.

Our community development program has continued to work actively with a number of community groups around the Region and we are spending an increasing amount of time as participants in Ontario Municipal Board hearings. We have also undertaken a commitment to facilitate and co-ordinate ex-psychiatric patients in responding to their community-based program needs.

The research program provided major consultations to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Regional Social Services, the Disabled and Aged Regional Transportation System (DARTS), LONAR, the the Coalition for Better Day Care, the Working Group on Income Maintenance for the Disabled, the United Way and the District Health Council.

Our liaison work with the District Health Council, which arises from the recognized need to better co-ordinate the delivery of health and social services, continued to intensify during the past year. Council staff are involved with the District Health Council's Community Co-ordinating Committee, Addictions Task Force and the Mental Health Task Force.

Liaison work with the Region has also continued to yield productive results. In the area of housing, the recommendations from our task force report of April, 1982, have seen considerable progress in

implementation. We served as major participants in the Region's seminar on non-profit housing and supported their condominium conversion policy at a recent Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

A provincial initiative to amalgamate the Family Benefits and General Welfare caseloads was analyzed by Council staff and the resulting recommendation was that the Region enter into the agreement if certain guarantees were forthcoming from the province. Unfortunately, these guarantees were not forthcoming and, consistent with our recommendation, the Region voted down the proposal.

Almost all of this work has come about as a result of requests for assistance from the community and this, I believe, indicates that we continue to be viewed as an important and credible service within the community which supports us through their donations and their tax dollars.

Our continued credibility is also obvious in the exposure which we have received through the media during the past year. Council staff have been quoted in *The Spectator*, the *Hamilton Magazine*, the weeklies, the *Globe and Mail* and *Saturday Night Magazine*. We have appeared on CHCH T.V. news, the CBC local news and the CBC Journal, as well as the local cable network.

I am very proud, therefore, of the job that has been done during the past year by both our volunteers and our staff, particularly when these accomplishments are viewed in light of our growing resource problems. It has been a year of intensifying past commitments and seeking more efficient ways of delivering our service while, at the same time, broadening our work to include the very important issues of community economic development.

It goes without saying, that we couldn't do any of these things without the commitment and talents of our volunteers and staff to provide the follow-through which our mandate requires. As Executive Director, I want to thank the staff for coming through in a very difficult year. It has been a pleasure to work with all of them during the past twelve months.

Mike Pennock

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The SPRC is grateful to its major funders: The United Way and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, for their financial support during 1982. Special thanks goes to the Hamilton Foundation for its financial assistance towards the promotion of Volunteer Week 1982, and also for its donation towards the purchase of a word processor.

In conclusion, we express our appreciation to the Council's members, who during the past year, have pledged their interest and support of our programs.

Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1982

(with comparative figures for 1981)

| | 1982 | 1981 |
|--|---------|---------|
| REVENUES: | | |
| Support from the public | 214,534 | 215,855 |
| Support from governments | 57,837 | 52,575 |
| Other | 7,861 | 6,592 |
| Total Revenues | 280,232 | 275,022 |
| EXPENSES: | | |
| Salaries | 210,350 | 207,990 |
| Employee health and retirement benefits | 15,214 | 14,337 |
| Data processing and professional fees | 5,061 | 3,295 |
| Supplies | 7,768 | 9,262 |
| Telephone | 5,625 | 6,295 |
| Postage and shipping | 4,196 | 3,491 |
| Occupancy | 19,473 | 14,386 |
| Outside printing | 3,810 | 2,071 |
| Local transportation | 3,068 | 3,119 |
| Conferences and meetings | 2,273 | 4,682 |
| Subscriptions and reference publications | 103 | 437 |
| Organization dues | 611 | 559 |
| Equipment and fixed assets | 2,345 | 1,448 |
| Rentals and miscellaneous | 711 | 1,778 |
| Total Expenses | 280,608 | 273,150 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for year | (376) | 1,872 |
| Surplus beginning of year | 1,872 | 1,311 |
| | 1,496 | 3,183 |
| Contribution to United Way in respect of surplus of prior year | (1,872) | (1,311) |
| Surplus (deficit) end of year | (376) | 1,872 |

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Directors and Members of
The Social Planning and Research Council
of Hamilton and District:

We have examined the balance sheet of The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and District as at December 31, 1982 and the statements of financial activities for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Council as at December 31, 1982 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles described in note 1 to the financial statements applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Hamilton Canada,
February 18, 1982

Clarkson Gordon
Chartered Accountants

Committee Membership

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Finance: | Mike Welch, Chairman Marjorie Baskin Anthony Butler David E. Seldon |
| Personnel: | David E. Seldon, Chairman Marjorie Baskin Anthony Butler Mike Welch |
| Nominating: | David E. Seldon, Chairman Judith Bishop Robert G. Darling Dr. John Frid Georgina Gibbons Heather Johnston David Mitchell Jack Moore Kenneth O'Neal Jack Southall |

STANDING COMMITTEES

Community Development Advisory:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Dick Capling, Chairman | David Mitchell |
| *Heather Bullock | *David Shanks |
| Shelagh Gill | Jenny Street |
| Sally King | *Jim Sykes |
| Ted McMeekin | |

Research Advisory:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Larry Chambers, Chairman | Les Lee |
| Robert Arnold | Dr. Paul Links |
| Grant Corbett | Dr. Gary Miller |
| Dr. Michael Dear | Nick Sidoruk |
| Dr. Barrie Humphrey | Lynn Seppa |
| Owen Jackson | *Margaret Strecker |
| Lou Lanza | |

Volunteer Bureau Advisory:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Donna Marcaccio, Chairperson | *Brian Hinkley |
| Marg Anderson-Herrmann | Sheila Johnson |
| Bill Brown | Elizabeth MacKay |
| Frances Chesney | *Ted McMeekin |
| Mabel Duncan | *Terri-Lee Seeley |
| Howard Gorle | Alison VanDuzer |
| Michael Gourlay | |

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Action Group on the Social Consequences of Unemployment:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Jenny Street, Chairperson | Cliff Lilliman |
| Shirley Collins | Jaynn Miller |
| *John Doherty | Ron Norris |
| Rev. John Dwyer | Bryan Rushton |
| Mark Garber | David E. Seldon |

*Resigned during the year

Committee of Past Presidents:

Marjorie Baskin, Chairperson
J. Nelson Allan
Thomas A. Beckett
Bishop John C. Bothwell
Craig Fraser

Hubert A. Martin, Q.C.
Charles T. McNair
Donald A. T. McFarlane
David E. Seldon

Downtown Study Group:

Anthony Butler, Chairman
*Patty Fischer
David Godley
John Nolan

Harry Penny
Sheldon Zelitt
*Dr. Barry Zimmerman

SPRC Resource Development:

Jon Buttrum, Chairman
David E. Seldon

Mike Pennock

Task Force on Review of SPRC/VB Relationships:

Larry Enkin, Chairman
Marjorie Baskin

Donna Marcaccio
Alison VanDuzer

VOLUNTEER BUREAU COMMITTEES:

Publicity and Promotion:

Alison VanDuzer, Chairperson
Serena Atwood
*Paulette Baron
Susan Coolsaet
*Donna Elliott
David Giddings
Rae Hickmore
Irene Hill
Sandra Larsen
Jean Malto

*Beth McGuire
Mary McKenzie
Margaret Richer
Thalia Smith
Dave Taffs
Jeanette Tait
Linda Veitch
Candy Welke
*Debbie Wotherspoon

Consultants: Marjorie Baskin
Lillian Bayne
Marilyn Branch
Bruce Mochrie
Emily Otterman
Ross Robinson
Debbi Straicher

Placement Advisors:

Mabel Duncan, Chairperson
Sondra Offord, Vice-Chairperson
Marg Anderson-Herrmann
Doug Angus
Sheila Fung
Diana Gorman
*Joan Guildford
*James Harris

*Phyllis Harris
Irene Hill
Debbie Kelley
Dorothy Munroe
*Mary O'Keefe
Helaine Ortman
Penny Paré

Nominating:

Donna Marcaccio, Chairperson
Bill Brown

*Frances Chesney

Policy Review Ad Hoc:

Donna Marcaccio, Chairperson
Mabel Duncan

Sheila Johnson

*Resigned during the year

Staff Members

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Executive Director:</i> | Mike Pennock |
| <i>Senior Research Associate:</i> | Jody Orr |
| <i>Community Development Consultant:</i> | Don Jaffray *Susan Goodman |
| <i>Volunteer Bureau Director:</i> | Linda Graff |
| <i>Research Associate:</i> | Kim Van Louwe |
| <i>Volunteer Bureau Program Consultant:</i> | Lillian Bayne |
| <i>Secretarial Staff:</i> | Mary Swan, Office Manager Cora Cousins Edna Field Kay German Shurl Kocman Gilberte M. Marlin |
| <i>Volunteer Clerical Staff:</i> | Hilda Nelligan Jill Hill |
| <i>Student Staff – 1982-83:</i> | |
| McMaster School of of Social Work | - Mark Tracy |
| Wilfrid Laurier School of Social Work | - Rob Kendrick |
| Mohawk College | - Mary Dunham |
| <i>Project Staff – 1982-83:</i> | Wanda Bielak Debbie Halloran Rob Kendrick Mary Novakovich Stan Pope |

*Resigned during the year

Board of Directors

1982 - 1983

OFFICERS

Marjorie Baskin, President
Anthony Butler, Vice-President
A. Michael Welch, Treasurer
Michael W. Pennock, Secretary
David E. Seldon, Past President

HONORARY SOLICITOR

William N. Callaghan, Q.C.

HONORARY DIRECTORS

J. Nelson Allan
Thomas A. Beckett
Bishop John C. Bothwell
Craig Fraser
Hubert A. Martin, Q.C.
Charles T. McNair
Donald A. T. McFarlane

DIRECTORS

Term Ending 1983

Jon Buttrum
*John Doherty
Sheila Johnson
Richard Leppert
+Donna Marcaccio
Jack Norris
Kenneth O'Neal
W. Ross Robinson
Jenny Street

Term Ending 1984

+Marjorie Baskin
+Dick Capling
*Rev. Rex Dolan
Larry Enkin
+Thomas J. Gallagher
David Gow
Brian Hinkley
Dr. Lily Oddie Munro
*Louis Sartor

Term Ending 1985

+Anthony Butler
+Dr. Larry Chambers
+William Davis
Mary Gibbon
Leonor Hart

Dr. Robert G. Kirby
+Judith McCulloch
Edgar Smee
+A. Michael Welch

Advisors to Board of Directors

Bruce Mochrie

Norma Walsh

+Member of Executive Committee

*Resigned during the year

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